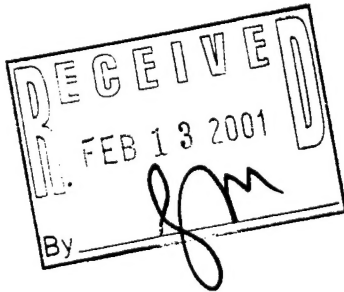


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(1) Foreward

This grant supported in part the work of five graduate students at Carnegie Mellon University: Christopher Larson, Robert Thrash, William Dugan, Mikil Foss, and Steven Pav.

(4) Main problems studied

The students studied questions in nonlinear analysis, stochastic analysis, and numerical analysis.

(5) Summary of most important results

(1995-1996) Robert Thrash has completed the courses and qualifying exam required for the Ph.D. degree in mathematical finance. Beginning in the fall of 1997, he took a leave of absence from Carnegie Mellon University to become a research scientist for Bank of America. He continues to work on a dissertation, centered around building a model for energy futures, and maintains regular contact with his thesis advisor, Steven Shreve.

(1995-1996) Christopher Larson. Larson studied. Variational problems involving bulk and surface energies that model problems in image segmentation, fracture mechanics, and optimal design of composite materials.

Results include

- a proof of finiteness of crack sites and discontinuities in image segmentation,
- a general result concerning representation of effective bulk energies when there is interaction between bulk and surface energies;
- regularity and geometric restrictions on optimal composites of two materials.

List of all publications and technical reports.

1. "Quasiconvexification in  $W^{1,1}$  and optimal jump microstructure in BV relaxation," SIAM J. Math. Anal. 29 (1998), pp. 823-848;
2. "A new proof of regularity for two-shaded image segmentations," Manuscripta Math. 96 (1998), pp. 247-262;
3. "Distance between components in optimal design problems with perimeter penalization," Ann. Scuola Norm. Sup. Pisa 28 (1999), pp. 641-649;
4. "On the representation of effective energy densities," Control, Optimisation and Calculus of Variations, to appear;
5. "On the connected components of edges in image segmentation," preprint;

6. "Uniqueness of steady-states and asymptotic behavior of solutions of a liquid junction model with insulation," (with R. Lui) preprint;

7. "Regularity of components in optimal design problems with perimeter penalization," preprint.

He is presently a tenure track assistant professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

(1996-1997) William Dugan left after one year without completing a degree.

(1997-1998 and August 1999) Mikil Foss was supported by the grant during the 1997 - 1998 academic year, his first year of graduate studies. This support enabled him to take extra classes and get started on his research early. During the 1998 - 1999 academic year, he began working on Lavrentiev's phenomenon in the Calculus of Variations, i.e. situations in which the infimum of a functional is sensitive to changes in the Sobolev exponent for the class of admissible functions. He has shown, by explicit examples, that the dependence of the infimum on the Sobolev exponent can be an arbitrary monotonic function. He is currently investigating Lavrentiev's phenomenon for certain problems in two and three dimensional nonlinear elasticity. He will finish his Ph.D thesis, under the direction of W. Hrusa and V. Mizel, during the spring of 2001.

(June 2000) Steven Pav This past six months Steven has been working on algorithms for the automatic generation of meshes suitable for finite element applications. This problem very challenging in dimensions greater than two, and Steven recognized that an algorithm we were developing for two and possibly three dimensions could be extended to arbitrary dimension with very little change. Steven currently writing up proofs of correctness of his algorithm and developing code to implement his ideas. The work will be published as part of his thesis.

Participating Personnel: G. Blesch (CS), S. Pav, N. Walkington (math)